

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/561,542**
Reply to OA dated August 24, 2009

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 6 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated August 24, 2009.

In the Office Action, Claims 3-5, 7 and 8 were objected to because of various informalities. It should be noted that Claims 4, 5, 7 and 8, as they appear, read correctly, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the objections. It appears as though an amendment to correct errors of the type listed by the Examiner was filed as a preliminary amendment on December 19, 2005. Claim 3 has been amended in a manner to overcome the objection. Removal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 7-10, 14, 15-16, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Ping et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0011024); and Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ping et al. Reconsideration and removal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments and the following remarks.

It is respectfully submitted that the priority date claimed in the present application (June 20, 2003) predates the filing date of Ping et al. Accordingly, attached herewith is a certified copy and

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an English language translation of Priority Document JP 2003-177337, and a statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Ping et al. should be removed as a reference.

In view of the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 1-20, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

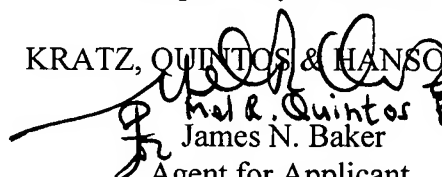
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: Certified copy, English language translation of JP 2003-177337 and
Statement of Accuracy